

JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 09 JUN 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 and 2 (Canceled).

3. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 10, wherein ~~Use of a composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that~~ the surgical procedure is an elective surgical procedure or an emergency surgical procedure.

4. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 3, wherein ~~Use of a composition according to Claim 3, characterized in that~~ the elective surgical procedure is a gastrointestinal procedure, heart surgery, nose and throat surgery, an abdominal procedure, vascular and/or joint surgery or transplantations.

5. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein ~~Use of a composition according to Claim 3, characterized in that~~ the emergency surgical procedure is trauma surgery or procedures for clearing up a septic focus.

6. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 10, wherein ~~Use of a composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that~~ the green tea extract includes theanine and polyphenols derived from catechin derivatives.

7. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 6, wherein ~~Use of a composition according to Claim 6, characterized in that~~ the catechin derivatives are selected from the group consisting of (-)-epigallocatechin gallate (EGCg), (-)-epigallocatechin (EGG), (-)-epicatechin gallate (ECg), (+)-gallocatechin (GC), (-)-epicatechin (EC), (+)-catechin (C) and combinations of two or more constituents thereof.

8. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 10, wherein ~~Use of a composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that~~ component b) is arginine or an arginine precursor in the form of a di- or tripeptide.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said composition further comprises Use of a composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that the latter additionally includes as component c) glycine, a glycine precursor in the form of a di- or tripeptide, or of the physiologically tolerated salts thereof or combinations thereof.

10. (Currently amended) A method Method for the support of surgical patients against the risk of postoperative complications comprising the step of gastrointestinally administering gastrointestinal administration of a composition comprising

- a) green tea extract and
- b) at least one NO donor which is a substrate of NO synthetase, and/or one precursor of this NO donor,

before a surgical procedure.

11. (Currently amended) The method Method according to Claim 10, wherein characterized in that the NO donor which is a substrate of NO synthase, or the precursor of this NO donor, is selected from the group consisting of arginine, glutamine, precursors of these amino acids, trinitroglycerin, isosorbite dinitrate, nitroprussite, aminoguanidine, spermine-NO, spermidine-NO and SIN 1 (3-morpholinosydnone imines), or of the physiologically tolerated salts or combinations thereof.

12. (Currently amended) The method Method according to Claim 10, wherein characterized in that the administration of the composition comprising components a) and b) takes place less than twenty-four hours, preferably less than twelve hours, in particular less than six hours, particularly preferably less than three hours, before the surgical procedure operation.

Claims 13 and 14 (Canceled)

15. (New) The method of Claim 10, wherein said support of surgical patients against the risk of postoperative complications comprises averting or reducing the risk of postoperative complications.

16. (New) A formulation for gastrointestinal administration before surgical procedures to reduce the risk of postoperative complications or to avert such a risk comprising a composition comprising

- a) green tea extract and
- b) at least one NO donor which is a substrate of NO synthetase, and/or one precursor of this NO donor.

17. (New) The formulation of Claim 16, wherein the NO donor which is a substrate of NO synthase, or the precursor of this NO donor, is selected from the group consisting of arginine, glutamine, precursors of these amino acids, trinitroglycerin, isosorbite dinitrate, nitroprussite, aminoguanidine, spermine-NO, spermidine-NO and SIN 1 (3-morpholinosydnone imines), or the physiologically tolerated salts or combinations thereof.

18. (New) The formulation of Claim 16, wherein the green tea extract includes theanine and polyphenols derived from catechin derivatives.

19. (New) The formulation of Claim 18, wherein the catechin derivatives are selected from the group consisting of (-)-epigallocatechin gallate (EGCg), (-)-epigallocatechin (EGG), (-)-epicatechin gallate (ECg), (+)-gallocatechin (GC), (-)-epicatechin (EC), (+)-catechin (C) and combinations of two or more constituents thereof.

20. (New) The formulation of Claim 16, wherein component b) is arginine or an arginine precursor in the form of a di- or tripeptide.

21. (New) The formulation of Claim 16, wherein said composition further comprises as component c) glycine, a glycine precursor in the form of a di- or tripeptide, or the physiologically tolerated salts thereof or combinations thereof.